GIVE IN TO GIVING
Food drives, events make it easy

ALEXANDER MILLER
MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Beacon Staff

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, students will have the chance to get in the spirit of giving by participating in events and food drives.

Students who stay on campus will be offered a Thanksgiving dinner by the Residential Hall Association and the Student Government Association. Dubbed “RHA and SGA Presents: Thanksgiving Dinner,” the event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 in the Graham Center Ballrooms in the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The dinner will be free for housing students and friends. Tickets are needed and can be found at the housing desks.

The event was put together by the RHA and funded by SGA. It costs $2.300.

Miguel Ovalles, RHA president for University Park Apartments, helped organize the event.

“We’re going to have come dians, we’re going to have dancers for entertainment and we’re going to have food,” Ovalles said.

The event will serve traditional Thanksgiving food, which is expected to run out as the night wears on.

There is also going to be a raffle and students who bring canned goods can participate. Prizes range from gift cards to CDs. Ovalles said.

For students at the Biscayne Campus.

THANKSGIVING, page 2

STREET ART: Marissa Hill (top left), art major, works on a graffiti mural in the Graham Center piano room. Beginning on Nov. 3 until Nov. 12, the mural was a two-week project for Professor Gretchen Schramm’s Advance Drawing class. The assignment was to create a legal graphite mural. The mural was covered the following morning.

DONATIONS AND EVENTS

EVENTS

RHA Thanksgiving Dinner by SGA and RHA
Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
GC Ballrooms
Free tickets for students and guests at the housing desks

BBC The Impact Movement’s banquet
Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Weile University Center Ballrooms
Free for students and the community

DONATIONS

RHA Godbox Center entrance, pit
Campus Life office, GC 2240
Women’s Center, GC 2200

MMC Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
GC 245
University Park Apartments, Building A

MMC Wolfe University Center Information Desk
Campus Life office, WUC 147
Women’s Center, WUC 256

MMC Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
WUC 253

GLOBAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

New program to launch, test new courses

MELODY REGALDO
Staff Writer

Beginning next semester, three new classes will let students learn how to better analyze social media, study global food production, and explore the dynamics of marine science. But in each class, students will be taught and graded by more than one professor.

Through the University’s new Quality Enhancement Plan, called “Global Learning for Global Citizens,” three new courses will be tested in Spring 2010, and students can take them as electives that will count toward their degrees.

The program is the newest addition by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization which accredits public universities in the southern U.S.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is required for the 2010 reaccreditation of the University. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recently added this program as a requirement for reaccreditation.

The three classes will be added to the University’s Core Curriculum, and incoming freshman for Fall 2010 will be required to take two classes that fulfill the “Global Learning” requirement, including one class to satisfy their UCC to meet graduation eligibility.

QEP, page 5

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FOR THE CAUSE

Autillo made chief of staff, switches with Sanchez

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus announced Nick Autillo as the new chief of staff on Nov. 18.

Autillo, the deputy chief of staff, switched positions with Drew Sanchez, chief of staff.

Sanchez said the decision was due to “time commitments” on his schedule.

“The big issue was the payment and office hours,” Sanchez told Student Media.

Struggling to meet the hours, Sanchez said he and SGC-MMC advisor, Jose Toscano, discussed finding a way to meet minimum hours. Sanchez, however, rejected the notion.

“I didn’t feel comfortable with that,” Sanchez told Student Media.

The position of chief of staff is one of the highest paid positions in all student government. According to the Student Government Association constitution, a chief of staff can make up to 32 percent of what a
Anime club elects new president

Jorge Valens
Assistant News Director

After the president of FIU’s Anything Goes Anime Club resigned, members of the club voted at a Nov. 19 meeting to replace all sitting members on the club’s executive board, according to some members. Luis Defana was appointed president of the club, replacing the sitting president, Chelsea Franco, formerly A.G.A.’s vice president who became president after Pedro Cortes’ resignation.

Cortes, who was appointed president in 2008, voluntarily stepped down from the position in the aftermath of a recent assault case involving Cortes and AGA executive board member Carla Slon.

“I’ve grown up with this club,” said Cortes, who has been a member of the club for almost six years. “When I say that this has been the source of my happiness for five or six years, I’m not joking.”

Cortes added that his time as president has taught him how to run organizations and deal with people.

Plan calls for bi-monthly meetings

Every two months, we would be meeting with our counterparts to be aware of University-wide issues.

Helen Ramirez, speaker of the senate Student Government Association

Ramirez said the plan is being implemented in both campuses by having each senate pass a resolution calling for it. The MMC senate briefly brought up the resolution in their last Nov. 16 meeting, then tabled it for the next meeting.

The resolution makes reference to the call for more unity between the campuses, prompted by the controversial Restructuring Resolution passed before-hand, which called for the two councils to remain separate due to “two different cultures at each campus,” states the text.

The resolution calls for a joint forum on a bi-monthly basis, “in person or via teleconference, to address issues preeminent to the University as a whole.”

Senators are scheduled to vote on the resolution on the Nov. 23 meeting.

Corrections

In the issue Nov. 18, the article titled “Groups to raise funds online,” the co-chairs of the United Way campaign are senior vice president of External Relations, Dr. Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and Ruth Hamilton, executive director of the Graham Center.

The Auction and Recognition Event will be held on Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

Google releases Chrome OS

Google announced its new Web-based operating system, Chrome OS, on Nov. 20. The system is dependent on Google’s Web applications, such as Gmail, GoogleDocs and Google Calendar.

According to CNN, the operating system will rely on flash memory to run, storing information on “the cloud,” or on Internet servers rather than a local hard drive.

Chrome OS will not be available to download and install on its own. Google is currently working with computer makers to create a line of Google branded computers. The first computers are expected to hit store shelves during the first quarter of 2010.

Leaked e-mails question climate change data

A breach to a computer server at a British university revealed hundreds of private e-mails exchanged between American and British climate researchers.

The e-mails show that scientists conspired to exaggerate human influence on climate change, according to The New York Times.

The e-mails, which question the quality of climate change research, include discussions on whether scientific data should be released, and some derisive comments aimed at climate change skeptics. In one e-mail, a scientist writes of using a “trick” to hide a decline in temperatures in a chart.

The breach is currently under investigation by police, who stated they could not confirm if all the material circulating the Internet is authentic. But The New York Times contacted several scientists who confirmed they were the recipients of specific e-mails included in the breached files.

At least one scientist speculated that the timing of this incident is not coincidental with an international meeting in Copenhagen to prepare an international climate accord. However, the hacked documents are unlikely to weaken the overall climate change argument, according to The New York Times.

“Compiled by Jorge Valens and Carla Garcia

E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com

Mailing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address is: The Beacon – Monday, November 23, 2009

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Diplomat to give insight on scholarships, job opportunities

Students will mingle with official at ice cream social

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Martinez will talk to students about career opportunities, internships, scholarships and fellowships available to them, and will explain what it’s like to be a diplomat in residence.

Each year, the U.S. Department of State assigns a senior foreign service officer to a certain university or school. Martinez is one of 16 senior diplomats to become diplomat in residence.

He has been the University’s diplomat in residence for the past three years, and as such, he is responsible for informing students about career opportunities throughout the region.

Martinez described what he does as “a pleasure in itself” in a previous article by The Beacon. He said he enjoys helping students find new and exciting opportunities and often spends his free time working with them.

Since his arrival at the University in 2006, Martinez has made a difference in the lives of several students. “I have been an enormous asset to FIU because of his excellent education and experience in the U.S. Foreign Service,” said John Clark, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

According to Clark, Martinez has helped students win major national scholarship to top universities such as George Washington University, and has also helped students get internships with the U.S. Department of State.

Martinez has been a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State for 22 years. He immigrated to the United States from Havana, Cuba in the 1960s and was raised in Miami.

The Cuban-American graduated from Duke University in 1972 with a degree in mathematics. He then went to law school at the University of Florida, where he was managing editor of the Florida Law Review.

Martinez was the chief of the U.S. embassy in Lima, Peru, a deputy consul in Belfast, U.K., special assistant to the consul general at the embassy in London, and became the first U.S. consul to Bosnia.

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GLOBAL CONNECTION

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

Following a suggestion by senators at the Student Government Council at Modesto Madrigal Campus to have University-wide senate meetings, SGC-Biscayne Bay Campus passed a resolution to make those meetings plausible.

The motion to pass the resolution was made by Zahra Arhiabi Askii, lower division senator, during the senate’s weekly meeting on Nov. 18. It was passed unanimously.

“The resolution made to have University-wide collaborative meetings with both senates was passed, but no schedule has been confirmed,” said Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC speaker pro-tempore and seniors major.

The original motion to have University-wide senate meetings was first made during the University-wide Council meeting on Oct. 23 by Mykaelle Figueiredo, SGC-MMC vice president.

“I think it would be very good for both counterparts of the senate to have reports and know what they are each doing,” she said at the UWC meeting.

But motions and resolutions cannot be made during University-wide meetings, so the motion was tabled for further discussion.

The motion needed to be made and passed by the senate of both campuses to take effect.

The SGC-BBC senate already passed the resolution, but it will not take effect until SGC-MMC does the same.

According to Helena Ramirez, SGC-MMC speaker, the resolution will be voted on during the senate’s weekly meeting on Nov. 23.

“We want to check on the logistics of our budgets and make sure it will work properly,” she said.

Ramirez agreed that the resolution may be helpful for both senates because it would create constant communication between them.

“These meetings will help create unity between the senate members and enhance communication between both campuses,” she said. “The meetings will let us know what our counterparts are doing.”

Acknowledging the past resolution made by SGC-MMC to restructure SGA and have one president for both campuses, Ramirez believes that improving communication between both campuses “is going to be a step in the right direction.”

SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate Tania Williams says the meetings will be beneficial to both the council and the students.

“This will create cohesiveness between both senates,” she said. “The senate will be on one accord, and we will be one University. Students will look at the campuses as one instead of different entities.”

Even though there aren’t University-wide senate meetings yet, Cohen said that to help keep both senates on one accord, Nickolay Chikishhev, SGC-BBC lower-division senator, manages a system where resolutions are e-mailed out, edited and sent back.

“We link our system to Hotmail, consists of all our folders and files. We all [SGA members] have access to them,” said Cohen. “We use it to view, comment and edit each others’ work.”

In addition to the Web site, SGC-BBC council meetings are briefly discussed during the University-wide meetings, in which no motions or resolutions can be made, but will provide the senate an open platform to discuss the overall improvements needed for the University.

If passed by the SGC-MMC senate, according to Ramirez, are considered working meetings, in which no motions or resolutions by realizations for both senates, “We want to have that created constant communication between both campuses,” she said.

“This communication will be vital for SGA and the students,” Ramirez said.

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If passed by the SGC-MMC senate, the resolution will establish bimonthly University-wide senate meetings that could possibly begin January 2010, according to Ramirez, but no time and date have been set.

“This communication will be vital for SGA and the students,” Ramirez said.

Contact Us
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BBC Managing Editor
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New curriculum to focus on globalization

QEP, page 1

Current students will not be affected by this change.

“The goal is to enhance student learning so they become better global citizens,” said Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

“These classes are really interactive and not lecture-based in order to keep students active in learning to solve real-world problems, working in teams and engaging in self-reflection.”

There are no prerequisites for these interdisciplinary courses, which are modeled after the Honors College courses.

They are taught by teams of three professors in order for students to gain different perspectives on the same subject. Since the classes are designed to be interactive, students will mainly work in groups.

The first class is “How We Know What We Know,” or IDS 3993, and will take place Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at the Modesto Maidique Campus. It will have a capacity of 56 students.

The course will be taught by Frederick Bleven, professor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Ben Lauren, professor in the English Department, and George Pearson, a librarian at the Biscayne Bay Campus. “We all have different perspectives but a shared interest in this topic,” Pearson said.

He said they will analyze how information is accessed and learn how to access it better, particularly in social media.

Their goal is to help students become more critical consumers, while assessing content in order to become more aware of the actions that affect their environment.

“The purpose is to try to teach students skills and raise awareness of how information works in the world across all different platforms,” Bleven said.

He said he hopes this class will help students become better researchers by giving them the skills that will be critical to the future of any career.

“International Nutrition, Public Health and Economic Development,” or IDS 3994, will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at MMC and will have a capacity of 56 students. It will be taught by Mahadev Bhat, associate professor of Environmental Studies; Adriana Campa, associate professor at the Department of Diabetics and Nutrition, and Frederick Newman, professor of Healthcare Policy and Management.

Doscher said this course explores the relationships between health and nutrition, food production, population growth, the environment and economic development in different countries,” she said.

“Our Coastal Environment: the Bay to the World,” or IDS 3995, will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Academic One at BCC. It will have a capacity of 60 students. The course will be taught by Peter Craemer, associate professor of Politics and International Relations; Hugh Gladwin, associate professor of Global and Socio-cultural Studies, and Rebecca Vega-Thurber, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

“In this class, we will incorporate themes about marine science and socio-economic issues surrounding marine science,” said Vega-Thurber. “We will focus on issues both local and coastal with an overall theme of Florida and South Florida.”

She said this course would be beneficial even to non-science majors because of the different topics it will cover, such as anthropology, sociology, literature, geography and law.

Students will learn how humans affect the coast and how the coast affects humans, and they will be encouraged to learn how other people think to gain an alternate perspective, she said.

The three new courses will be supplemented by co-curricular activities, which are still being planned but will likely include service-learning projects, lectures, tours, field trips and films. Students will be able to get class credit for attending these activities, said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

“We are working closely with faculty members to ensure that even when courses are at full capacity, they won’t turn into lecture-based classes,” she said. “They will be using online technology in order to keep students active and engaged.”

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• Red Bar
• Havana Dreams
• Japengo at the Hyatt
• Ecco Lounge
• Finnegan’s River
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• Artoconecto... plug in at Macy’s
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• Blue Martini

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While transparency still an issue, SGA makes notable achievements this semester

It has been a busy semester for the Student Government Association. Both councils have spent the semester hard at work to tackle complex issues ranging from council unification to the filling of council vacancies. As the current student government prepares to step aside to make way for the next generation of leaders, it is important to take a look at what has been accomplished.

SGC-MMC was a key tenant of both council’s presidents’ platforms during the election, and can be achieved through an updated Web site where students have access to minutes and videos or audio feeds of meetings. The Beacon still considers this a laudable goal to work toward, however no visible progress has been made.

SGC-BCC, meanwhile, has struggled in keeping students aware of its affairs, at least as far as its Web site is concerned. For several months, the site did not even have an accurate list of council members. Meeting minutes and senate votes are simply nowhere to be found on the SGC-BBC site.

Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president, vowed to have a new updated site by the end of the summer, according to a Beacon candidate questionnaire submitted last spring. While The Beacon understands the difficulties in running an SGA site, as the sites are controlled by Campus Life, there is no excuse this far into the school year.

Both presidents had also promised to use social media as a tool to reach out to students and increase student input. In this aspect, both councils have made progress. Despite some missteps earlier in the semester, the SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC Facebook groups have up-to-date information regarding SGA and student events. These pages provide a channel for students to voice their opinions.

Neistein has also delivered on his promise to bring back free printing to BCC at the beginning of the Summer term. Students at BCC now have the opportunity to print 250 all-black pages or 80 all-color with a swipe of their Panther IDs at the second-floor computer lab of the Wolfe Union.

The Beacon feels Neistein worked swiftly and efficiently in accomplishing this goal.

This goal Riorda has fulfilled is the renovation of the Graham University Center. While the argument has been made that SGA should not spend its funds on such cosmetic endeavors, it is safe to say that the students were not at all disappointed in seeing the heads of the SGC and SGC-BCC Facebook groups have up-to-date information regarding SGA and student events. These pages provide a channel for students to voice their opinions.

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As the current student government prepares to step aside to make way for the next generation of leaders, it is important to take a look at what has been accomplished.

Fort Hood shooting mars Muslim beliefs

Hectic and horrible were the two first words coming to the mind of Sergeant Eric Duplissa, stationed at Fort Hood on the day of the shooting. A friend had stormed into the room alerting him of the situation. Upon arrival to the shooting location, the duo offered assistance to the wounded.

There were people in uniform struggling to get some of the bodies through the shrapnel in their bodies. Seeing the hurt was hard, but entering the building proved to be a more sobering sight for Sgt. Duplissa.

“...about 10 dead bodies totally shot to [expletive] and gone...” The one shower I know of who I personally saw was Maj. Hasan, and by his body that was getting treated was his weapon, an FN 5.7 with about 16 30rd mags, about 10 of them empties...”

It came to our knowledge later on that the blood was spilled over a case of Islamic extremism. And with Sept. 11 still on the mind of every American, it’s possible this tragedy could have some revisiting anti-Islamic tensions.

One’s extreme beliefs led a commissioned officer to turn his gun against his brother in what was a homegrown and terrorist action. “It’s the fact that they can turn because of their belief system, and not all will, but some have, and it has been devastating for us,” Duplissa said.

Islam is a religion of 1.5 billion people. That is a number far too great for us to write off as a cult that preaches genocide against Americans. (Militia Khan, president of the Muslim Student Association at FIU, issued the following statement: “American Muslims are deeply saddened for the loss of our brothers and sisters in the Fort Hood tragedy. We condemn any acts of violence, whether they are terrorist or not. The religion of Islam teaches peaceful and civil relations between human beings. This tragedy has brought American Muslims into the forefront due to uncertainty and stereotypes. We are more than willing to communicate with others in order to clarify the various misrepresentations of Muslims, as well as the fact that Islam does not promote these types of acts.”)

A rotten fruit has fallen from a tree of liberty that grew it. We are a better society than the reactionary ones that would rather wield an ideological axe to hack away the height of the tree and grind the stump of beliefs to shreds scattered through short blades of the grass around it.

We cannot allow these fears to cheapen our thoughts. Those who commit these acts want us to fear Islam. Their chief demand for their ideological warfare is for there to be a war itself.

They want us to look in the eye of every honest Muslim American in the military with an untrustworthy glance.

We cannot cast shadows of shame on the graves of every Muslim soldier that served and died for our country. We have to be American.

While transparency still an issue, SGA makes notable achievements this semester

While students struggle to find ways to pay for their ever-rising tuition, the presidents of some of the nation’s major private research universities are receiving steep increases in their compensation packages.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s annual executive compensation survey of the 2007-8 fiscal year, a number of university presidents at private institutions are taking in a 5.5 percent increase from the previous year.

Of the 419 universities included in The Chronicle’s survey, 110 schools awarded their presidents a package exceeding half a million dollars – a total of about $2.5 billion. The median president’s salary was $530,000 last year, down from last year’s 4 percent increase. Tuition increase is up, faculty salary is down and meanwhile the administration is swimming in money.

I was under the impression that the university is no longer its faculty and students. Meanwhile the administration is swimming in money.

Editorial Policy

Editorials are the unified voice of the student body. The Beacon recognizes that there is a diversity of opinions at Florida International University. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send opinion@fiusm.com.
Radiate FM’s hip-hop director talks rhythm, rhyme, reason

When Krista Lo left a party a few months ago, a group of men drinking near her truck didn’t want her to get home quite yet.

As they sat on her truck, she nervously tuned on the radio, which played Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers).

Suddenly, the men changed their tone. “I told them I loved Wu-Tang Clan and Ready to Die was, beginning to end, one of the best albums of all time,” Lo said. “Sure enough, one of them had ‘Ready to Die’ tattooed on his chest.”

The 19-year-old has to convince hip-hop heads that she is a credible source who understands the genre well.

“People are generally pretty skeptical. When I’m talking to big groups of people and I say I like hip-hop, sometimes I get a funny look,” Lo said. “They usually say, ‘You? You like hip-hop? No!’ If you sit and have a conversation with me, I promise you that I will be able to keep up with whomever you’re talking about.”

Lo became the FIU student radio hip-hop director roughly one month ago. She is responsible for approving all the hip-hop music sent to the station by record labels.

Despite her penchant for hip-hop, she does not limit herself to one type of music. She has a rotation show, “Yes Sir, I Can,” which plays contemporary underground music.

“I can have a specialty show, but I just really love being able to throw in anything,” Lo said. “If I want to throw in something from Ethiopia in the ‘60s and then throw in something that came in the day before from Brooklyn, I can. I love the fact that I have the opportunity to do that.”

When asked if hip-hop was her favorite genre, Lo did not respond with an immediate yes, but had this to say: “If you had to tell me to give up listening to a certain genre of music, hip-hop would be the last one I give up.” Lo said. “It’s the closest to my heart because I feel there is no other music like it. It’s a truly original form of music that came out of nowhere.”

Radiate FM Music Director Ryan Morejon hired Lo because she is not biased toward one type of hip-hop or any one genre.

Some of her favorite artists include, A Tribe Called Quest, Nas, Big L, The Notorious B.I.G., The Velvet Underground and The Mars Volta.

“She would do well as any director,” Morejon said. “She has a good general knowledge of every genre.”

Lo did consider having a show where she played a specific genre of music, and it was not conventional.

“I was approved to have a specialty show basically consisting of jazz and music from Africa during the ‘60s and ‘70s,” Lo said. “But I can’t give up my specialty show yet; it’s too soon.”

Only if one of the current hip-hop DJs leaves would Lo consider hosting a show of that variety.

Jason Kavanagh or DJ JB hosts “Supa Sounds” Monday nights, and he said he was impressed with Lo’s level of hip-hop expertise.

“Her knowledge of hip-hop is vast. You can’t judge a book by its cover,” Kavanagh said. “Lots of the people her age don’t know the stuff it plays. In terms of people at the station who know hip-hop, she ranks right up there with me.”

Summing up the decade one tech advancement at a time

To sum up this decade in technology is no easy feat. So much has happened that it only serves to excite me for what we have in store for 2010 and beyond, or as it will be oddly referred to... “the 10’s.”

This list was harder than I thought, but with much deliberation and various tips to respected colleagues for advice. These events or items have changed everything for us petty humans whether we’ve noticed it or not.

10 – THE XBOX, PLAYSTATION, Wii, AND THE DAWN OF NEXT GEN GAMING.

These companies and consoles have come a long way in 10 years. Not only in the advancement of the hardware but in the progression of software as well. Developers not only used these next generation consoles to create, well, next generation games, they also created new gaming experiences.

The Nintendo Wii really achieved this first, with its motion sensing technology. Though its dominance will be tested in the next decade, with Microsoft’s Project Natal and a similar project from Sony, Nintendo gets the credit for creating it first.

9 – TURN-BY-TURN GPS FOR ALL!

Though GPS technology has been available for quite sometime, it began gaining mainstream in 2001. Not only is it standard on a majority of vehicles but in 2002 companies began integrating it into mobile technology, such as personal digital assistants and cellular phones.

Since then, companies like TomTom and Garmin have developed standalone devices to compete with these phones, however. The next decade for GPS manufacturers will be an interesting one, considering they have a zero-cost competitor.

On Nov. 6, Google debuted free turn-by-turn navigation on the Motorola Droid, with plans to roll it out to other devices in the near future. But with Google’s GPS, and its propensity for openness, one can only wonder how GPS will be integrated into our lives in 2010 and beyond.

8 – THE NEW FORMAT WARS: BLU-RAY AND HIGH DEFINITION STREAMING BATTLE FOR WORLD SUPREMACY.

The HD format wars of the mid to late 00’s led HD-DVD in the dust. Blu-Ray technology, the winner, became the next evolution of DVD, featuring 1080P high-def video and sound. However its biggest hurdle comes from a company known for distributing Blu-Rays in a very unique way. Netflix has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Its online streaming service is spectacularly implemented and is proof of concept that Sony’s fight is not done yet.

Though online HD streaming via Netflix is still young, it’s expanding at a rapid pace. Its expansion to video game consoles, set-top boxes and DVD players proves this. In the next decade, Netflix, and services like it, have a good chance to knock
Talent neglected in favor of popularity

ISAAC SORIA
Contributing Writer

So you think you can drag? Apparently, Lady Jane, Raveena Sapphire and Evelyn Lyn did as they competed against each other for a $500 cash prize at Trixie’s in Hollywood, Fla.

“The So You Think You Can Drag?” competition was hosted by the Beta Delta chapter Delta Lambda Phi, as a fundraiser for future events. These performers, Danny Aguilar (Jane), Rashad Subhan (Sapphire) and Yael Moreno (Lyn), battled it out for eight weeks putting on amazing performances.

Last Monday, Nov. 16, the finals were held. In the first round, Lady Jane performed first. She danced extremely well with her “pops,” “vogues,” and “drops.” Her outfit was a simple black top, short jean shorts, black heels and belly dance to “Give It Up To Me” by Shakira. Raveena Sapphire wore a blonde wig and a black vest that exposed her black and tan bra along with black shorts and gold high heels. Evelyn Lyn performed “Rumors” by Lindsay Lohan and started off with a black coat which eventually came off. Her dance moves were stiff, but the crowd enjoyed it.

In the second round, Lady Jane did another mix of songs, but wore the same outfit, which brought down her standing in the view of drag judges Jonie Spiritio, Kassandra Hylton and Miss Noel. Lady Jane still danced amazingly well. Raveena Sapphire performed after with “What You Waiting For?” by Gwen Stefani, and wore an elaborate outfit of a mad hatter hat, and a blue and white Alice in Wonderland dress. Raveena Sapphire lip-synched every word in the song accurately and imitated the Gwen Stefani personality impressively as she stripped down to her pink bra and blue panties. The third contestant, Evelyn Lyn still performed stiffly and with little to no personality. Thankfully, her co-star, Ky Lexy performed with lots of emotion, taking on an angry teenage rock-star girl character.

The crowd was still pleased with their performance and tipped the consultant and her co-star plenty.

In round three, the three contestants and Ky Lexy had to perform “Lady Marmalade” (the 2001 cover version), which apparently was a surprise to them because they all seemed completely confused.

Raveena Sapphire was quick on her feet, doing Maya’s part, and then after being directed by one of the professional drag queens, Evelyn Lyn did Pink’s part, Lady Jane Kim’s, and Ky Lexy did Christina Aguilera’s part. Raveena Sapphire again performed well, and Evelyn Lyn showed a little bit more personality but was still stiff in her movements.

Lady Jane was filled with lots of energy and also took on the part of L’il Kim accurately, and Ky Lexy also channeled Chris-tina Aguilera well even though she started off a little perplexed. That was understandable, since it was her first time performing and in any event, she was not a consultant.

After “Marmalade” they performed “Hash, Hash” by the PussyCats Dolls for fun and professional drag queens hopped on stage to join in. Minutes afterward Gennai Stone announced Raveena Sapphire runner up, and Evelyn Lyn the winner because she got the most tips from the audience.

This was a poor way of choosing the winner in my view, because it turned the event into a popularity contest instead of a talent contest.

Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

Fourth album boosts stirring guitar work

MAYER, page 8

The song that follows, “Perfectly Lonely,” reassures the listener that Mayer is not this man going through the motions of denial as he sings, “I’m perfectly lonely ‘cause I don’t belong to anyone and nobody belongs to me.” This song is a jazz-intrinsed track that is sure to make you want to listen again.

The blues cover “Crescendo,” with guitar rhythms that twist and turn all over the track show the skills that made us turn our attention to Mayer way back when Room For Squares was released, showing talent that has only improved with each album since.

After this detour, Mayer returns with “I Don’t Care,” which is easily one of the album’s most personal tracks. His relapse song, if you may, paints the picture of a nearly desperate man who may still be clinging to those maybe-this-is-meant-to-be thoughts in the back of his head.

As fast as his desperate attempt comes, it swiftly leaves with the song “Do You Know Me?” in which he yet again reflects on his once beloved romance.

Mayer closes his album with “Friends Lovers, or Nothing.” Filled with his signature sound that takes us back to the Continuous days, his last song signs off with a message to his former lover: it is time to choose with that. Mayer finds what we hope is closure.

John Mayer’s latest efforts put him on a scale right before Clapton’s guitar skills, right next to Tom Petty’s vocal chops, and reaching towards Bob Dylan’s songwriting level. But remember, it is only his fourth album. So for all you newly wounded single souls, grab some tissues, a journal and a pen and get ready for your battle studies.

Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.
TECH, page 7
out the big “blu” defending champ.

7 – THE DEATH OF PHYSICAL INTERACTION AT THE HANDS OF FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.

Social media has defined a large part of this decade. Facebook, Twitter and, up until a few years ago, MySpace, have transformed into services that connect users together. But, more importantly, they have redefined the way we interact.

Facebook has gone from a closed community of college students to more than 200 million users, effectively becoming a new competitor for e-mail.

Twitter has become an endless stream of information. In a world driven by information, Twitter is a powerful tool. Leo LaPorte, tech guru and head of TWiT, described Twitter as the “central nervous system of the Internet.”

If you want to see what people’s interests are, just type #IranElection or #Obama into Twitter and see what you find.

6 – THE APPLE IPOD TOUCH: “YES, YOU CAN TOUCH YOUR PHONE.”

You thought I was going to put this at No. 1 didn’t you?

Apple debuted the iPhone in 2007 and the world’s jaw collectively dropped. This phone was sci-fi meets reality, with a large touch screen and multi-touch technology.

Apple has advanced the iPhone since then – both in hardware and software – and, though its development platform is still closed and strictly monitored, that hasn’t stopped it from selling more than 10 million units or “inspiring” other companies to create something similar.

The iPhone really captivated the market, and was proof positive that the Apple hype machine was amazingly successful at creating, selling and marketing a major product. It was a new mobile experience, one that will get better over time.

5 – THE RISE OF ONLINE VIDEO

When YouTube was created in 2005, it became an instant platform for self-expression, education and guys getting hit in the crotch. YouTube gave birth to instant access video, something that has revolutionized learning and creativity. YouTube videos have contributed so much to society, both in entertainment and in news media, that it has really given the end user an omnipresence that could never be achieved.

Whether you’re using YouTube, Viddler, or Vimeo, streaming video will leap forward in 2010.

4 – ONLINE MUSIC AND THE DEATH OF THE COMPACT DISC.

Online music services such as Amazon Music and iTunes have really changed the way we buy and listen to music. These services have become popular, instant music channels where people can legally buy tracks from their favorite artists and bands.

This whole idea of “a la carte” music, or buying just a couple of tracks, was pretty revolutionary, delivering on something that has become sci-fi meets reality with the compact disc and solidified mp3 as the wave of the future.

3 – GOOGLE

Google is No. 3 because you really can’t pick just one thing they did that changed the decade. Google’s search engine is just a scratch on the surface. Google has used the Internet to compete with hardware, pushing forward the idea of cloud computing, which will play a huge role in the next 10 years.

Their collection of online apps such as GMail, Google Docs and Google Calendar are some of the most used on the Internet. Their efforts and developers have really pushed for the advancement of the Web and, with new beta projects every day such as Chrome OS and Google Wave, Google is still innovating and still trying to take on the big players like Microsoft and Apple, using the Internet.

2 – THE APPLE IPOD

The iPod is the electronic device of the decade. Launched in 2001, the iPod is currently the No. 1 media player in the world, holding more than a 70 percent market share. The iPod has shaped the decade not only because of its popularity, but because of its strong content portal, iTunes, and a long list of accessory makers that have created everything from iPod powered stereos to toasters with iPod docks – yes, toasters.

Much like the iPhone, the iPod stylistically broke the mold in terms of design and will continue to do that for some time. It’s elegant, it holds attention and it changes every year.

At the end of the day, an iPod is just as much a fashion accessory as it is a powerful media player. The reason the iPod is No. 2 is because it paved the way for things like the iPod nano, and, ultimately, the iPhone. It was the beginning of a new Apple, and proof that something beautiful can be useful.

Next on Fistfuls of Tech! Find out who clinched the No. 1 spot on The Top Ten Tech Advancements of the Decade.

Tech! counts down the top ten tech feats of the decade

Tuesday Times Talks
Open Discussions of Global Current Events
12:00pm-1:00pm · GL 220 · Refreshments served


Nov. 3 “Pharmaceutical Research: Medicine or Marketing?” Moderator: David Cohen, Social Work

Nov. 10 “The Arts: I Know What I Like and I Like What I Know” Moderator: David Ostrow, Music

Nov. 17 “Women and Islam: Whose Marriage Is It Anyway?” Moderator: Nina Porcor-Pedro, Education

Nov. 24 “Online Learning: Will Schooling Ever Be the Same?” Moderator: Brian Peterson, History
FIU won its second consecutive game of the season last Friday against North Carolina Central 83-73 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. After losing three games in blowout fashion to open the 2009-10 campaign, the Golden Panthers (2-3, 0-0 Sun-Belt) are enjoying the comforts of home.

"We want to make sure this is a tough place for teams to come and win at," FIU coach Isaiah Thomas said. "Our players are really starting to get used to playing in our building. Once we get all the fan support and everything else this is going to be a tough arena to win basketball games in."

With the help of a balanced offense and an undersized but stingy defense, Thomas won his second career game as a college coach.

Marvin Roberts led the Golden Panthers with 21 points and 10 rebounds, including a pair of rim-rattling dunks. FIU had three players in double figures besides Roberts, as Thomas kept a tight rotation of seven players against the eagles.

"I'm glad to get the crowd going with his aerial displays," Roberts said. "You have to have a turning point sometimes, " Roberts said. "I try to get my team in it with a couple of dunks here and there."

The Eagles were led by a pair of 20 plus point scoring efforts from C.J Wilkerson and Vincent Davis, but FIU pulled away with a dagger 3-pointer by Roberts with 5:06 left in the game to put the ball in the game.

"I think we grew a lot, especially putting yourself in the position you have to play against the No.1 team in the nation and how can we press the ball," Coach Danijela Tomic said of North Texas's offense. "But our team was very focused and we executed our game plan. "Our defense has been great; it has made it look easy," Roberts added.

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FOOTBALL: UF 62, FIU 3

Team gets swamped by nation’s top program

JOHNTHAN RAMOS
Assoc. Sports Director

The Florida Gators are undefeated, are ranked No. 1 in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and boast a senior Heisman Trophy hopeful as they gear up for a national title run.

The Gators pummeled FIU for 584 total yards on offense and they weren’t selfish. Quarterbacks Tim Tebow and John Brantley distributed the football to nine different receivers for five passing touchdowns and 361 yards worth of devastating aerial attacks.

After Tebow did most of the damage, his sophomore backup Brantley finished off FIU by tossing three of the touchdowns down the stretch.

The humbling loss gave FIU coach Mario Cristobal some perspective of where he sees the direction of his program going.

“I think that you look at building a program and you see what you really want to do,” he said. “You want to build a place and be like a University of Florida. When you get on a big stage like this and you see every part of it, you see the alumni, the hype, the tailgating, a beautiful building and then when you go on the field and play against elite talent it really gets you fired up to what the possibilities are of building a program. You also realize how far you have to go to reach that status.”

FIU’s cast of youthful players got a taste early in the season.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STREAK IS OVER

Golden Panthers fall short in quest for conference title

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt championship title has eluded the Golden Panthers for several seasons now, but with arguably the strongest season in FIU volleyball history, an undefeated conference record and a 23-match winning streak, all signs pointed to FIU finally regaining the conference crown.

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“I said to them after the second set ‘Where is my team?’ This wasn’t the team that won 30 games this year,” Tomic said. “Our serving wasn’t very good, the tempo of our offense wasn’t fast, our hitters weren’t playing smart… Everything went wrong.”

The Panthers would take the third set to keep their hopes alive, but the Blue Raiders would put FIU away in the fourth set to win the match and the conference title.

Jovana Bjelica led the team in kills for the match with 15, while Rosa would add 12 kills and 13 digs to the FIU effort. Natalia Valentin led the team with 39 assists while Lakovic recorded three blocks.

Despite the loss, FIU is still expected to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Panthers return home to finish the regular season on Nov. 28 against Florida A&M.

FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0 (25-17, 25-13, 15-15)

After a disappointing first round exit in last year’s Sun Belt tournament, the Golden Panthers made sure that they did not repeat experience with a three-set sweep over North Texas at E.A. Diddle Arena on WKU’s campus, the host site for this year’s tournament.

The FIU offense, led by Yarimar Rosa’s 16 kills, jumped out to early leads in each to help propel the Golden Panthers over the Mean Green, forcing them to play catch-up for most of the afternoon.

“They started playing very well.”

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

VOLLEYBALL, page 10

TEAM GETS SWAMPED BY NATION’S TOP PROGRAM

JONATHAN RAMOS
Assoc. Sports Director

The Florida Gators are undefeated, are ranked No. 1 in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and boast a senior Heisman Trophy hopeful as they gear up for a national title run.

The injury-riddled Golden Panthers were overwhelmed from the start, in turn losing 62-3 at UF on Nov. 21. The 59-point loss is tied for worst in the young program’s history.

All of that came to a screeching halt at E.A. Diddle Arena on Saturday as the Blue Raiders stunned Coach Danjela Tomic and the Golden Panthers in a four-set match to earn the Sun Belt championship and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

“We were not the team that we are,” Tomic said. “Middle Tennessee played a great match and put pressure on us. They made us play out of character.”

Both squads came out battling in the first set, and the Panthers overcame an early deficit to tie the first set at 15 apiece, but late in the stanza the Blue Raiders would pull away to take an important 1-0 lead.

“They played good, but we didn’t show up as a team,” said Yarimar Rosa. “We couldn’t put the ball down.”

The Blue Raiders would not let up in the second set, jumping out to an 8-1 lead and although the Golden Panthers tried to close the gap, FIU could not climb back and fell into a 2-0 hole.

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FOOTBALL, page 10

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The Golden Panthers return home to finish the regular season on Nov. 28 against Florida A&M.

FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0 (25-17, 25-13, 15-15)

After a disappointing first round exit in last year’s Sun Belt tournament, the Golden Panthers made sure that they did not repeat experience with a three-set sweep over North Texas at E.A. Diddle Arena on WKU’s campus, the host site for this year’s tournament.

The FIU offense, led by Yarimar Rosa’s 16 kills, jumped out to early leads in each to help propel the Golden Panthers over the Mean Green, forcing them to play catch-up for most of the afternoon.

“They started playing very well.”

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

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